

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OES-06 ERDA-07 ACDA-10 NRC-07 TRSE-00 DHA-02 IO-13

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

UNCLAS ZAGREB 328

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, YO, US

SUBJECT: SIROTKOVIC STATEMENT ON RETURN FROM U.S. VISIT

REF: ZAGREB 324

1. ZAGREB MEDIA HAS GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE TO RETURN OF CROATIAN DELEGATION FROM ITS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES (REFTEL). RETURN OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PRESIDENT JAKOV SIROTKOVIC AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WAS SECOND ITEM IN APRIL 19 ZAGREB EVENING TELEVISION NEWS FOLLOWING REPORT ON PRESIDENT TITO'S RECEIVING DANISH QUEEN MARGARET. EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS OF SIROTKOVIC'S AIRPORT STATEMENT WERE CARRIED.

2. ZAGREB DAILY PRESS ON APRIL 20 ALSO GAVE MAJOR AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE TO THE RETURN OF THE DELEGATION AND SIROTKOVIC'S STATEMENT. "VJESNIK" FEATURED FRONT PAGE LEAD-IN ENTITLED "DR. SIROTKOVIC: USA SHOWS GREAT INTEREST IN COOPERATION WITH YUGOSLAVIA." IN BOLD TYPE FOUR "THEMES OF DISCUSSIONS" ARE LISTED:

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-- "CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER STATION KRSKO--
A SOLUTION IS EXPECTED SOON;

-- JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN INA AND DOW CHEMICAL, BUT ALSO
COOPERATION WITH OUR SHIPBUILDERS;

-- INTEREST OF AMERICAN BANKERS IN INVESTMENT IN OUR COUNTRY;

-- MUTUAL INTEREST SEEN IN THE U.S. IN COOPERATION WITH
(CROATIAN) EMIGRANTS."

3. ARTICLE ON PAGE FIVE PROVIDES DETAILS OF SIROTKOVIC'S
REMARKS ON THESE AREAS AND HIS OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF VISIT.
SIROTKOVIC COMMENTED THAT THE CROATIAN DELEGATION "WAS MET
EVERYWHERE WITH CORDIALITY AND A READINESS OF DIALOGUE,
ESPECIALLY IN THOSE AREAS WHERE THERE IS A NEED TO CLEAR
UP SOME QUESTIONS." HE SAID THAT HIS MEETINGS WITH U.S.
GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON TOOK PLACE "IN
THE SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING" AND THAT "THE NEW ADMINISTRATION
OF PRESIDENT CARTER IS DEMONSTRATING ITS DESIRE THAT CO-
OPERATION WITH YUGOSLAVIA DEVELOPS IN ALL AREAS, PARTICULARLY
ON THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PLANES." ON U.S.-YUGOSLAV
RELATIONS, SIROTKOVIC SAID, "IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT A
POSITIVE TREND EXISTS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND YUGOSLAVIA AND THAT THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE."

4. IN THE BEGINNING OF HIS STATEMENT, SIROTKOVIC SPECIFICALLY
REFERRED TO PROBLEMS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR POWER
PLANT AT KRSKO. HIS REMARKS ON KRSKO, AS REPORTED IN VJESNIK,
ARE AS FOLLOWS:

"DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS, SOME OPEN QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE
CONSTRUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT KRSKO WERE GIVEN SPECIAL
EXAMINATION. WE AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS,
AND IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE BELIEF AND THE HOPE WERE
EXPRESSED THAT THE REMAINING QUESTIONS CAN BE RESOLVED. IN
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ADDITION, THEY HAVE THE INTENTION OF SENDING REPRESENTATIVES
WHO WOULD HOLD DISCUSSIONS ON THAT SUBJECT."

5. ZAGREB TABLOID "VECERNJI LIST" CARRIES A SIMILAR SHORTER
VERSION OF STORY OF RETURN OF DELEGATION AND SIROTKOVIC'S
AIRPORT STATEMENT. ZAGREB EDITION OF BORBA HAS ARTICLE WHICH
COVERS THE ITEMS FEATURED IN VJESNIK STORY BUT LEAVES OUT
SIROTKOVIC'S COMMENT ON THE "POSITIVE TREND" IN U.S. YUGOSLAV
RELATIONS.

6. COMPLETE TEXT OF SIROTKOVIC STATEMENT AS REPORTED BY VJESNIK
BEING FORWARDED BY POUCH. KAISER

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NNN

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Sent Date: 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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